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Amendment
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21 a plurality of substantially linear interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end

the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements and second interconnecting elements,

the first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the first undulating band-like element and troughs on the second undulating band-like element, the number of peaks on the first undulating band-like element exceeding the number of first interconnecting elements, the second interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the second undulating band-like element and troughs on the third undulating band-like element, the number of peaks on the second undulating band-like element exceeding the number of second interconnecting elements,

wherein the number of peaks of the first undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent first interconnecting elements is less than the number of peaks of the second undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent second interconnecting elements.

2. 40. (Twice Amended) A stent with a proximal end, a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, each undulating band-like element extending about the longitudinal axis, the plurality of undulating band-like elements extending from the proximal end of the stent to the distal end of the stent, adjacent undulating band-like elements separated by gaps which are shorter in longitudinal length than the undulating band-like elements,

the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like element, a second undulating band-like element, a third undulating band-like element, and a fourth band-like element, the second undulating band-like element disposed between the first and third undulating band-like elements, the third undulating band-like element disposed between the second and fourth undulating band-like elements, and

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a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements, second interconnecting elements, and third interconnecting elements,

the first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the first undulating band-like element and troughs on the second undulating band-like element, the number of peaks on the first undulating band-like element exceeding the number of first interconnecting elements, the second interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the second undulating band-like element and troughs on the third undulating band-like element, the number of peaks on the second undulating band-like element exceeding the number of second interconnecting elements, the third interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the third undulating band-like element and troughs on the fourth undulating band-like element,

the number of peaks of the first undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent first interconnecting elements being less than the number of peaks of the second undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent second interconnecting elements

wherein each second interconnecting element is separated from the third interconnecting element nearest to it by a single peak of the third undulating band-like element and a single trough of the third undulating band-like element.

43. (Amended) The stent of claim 40 where the interconnecting elements are substantially linear.

44. (Amended) The stent of claim 41 where the interconnecting elements are substantially linear.

50. (Twice Amended) A stent with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, each undulating band-like element extending about the longitudinal axis, undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another separated by a gap which is shorter in longitudinal length than each of the adjacent undulating band-like elements, the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like element and a second undulating band-like element, the first and second undulating band-like elements adjacent one another, and

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F3 a plurality of substantially linear interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end, the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements, the first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the first undulating band-like element and troughs on the second undulating band-like element, first interconnecting elements which are adjacent one another connected to each other via a first path along the undulating first band-like element, the first path having a first length, and via a second path along the undulating second band-like element, the second path having a second length, wherein the first path length is different from the second path length.

4 13 52. Amended) The stent of claim 50 wherein the first and second undulating band-like elements are characterized by different amplitudes.

5 15 54. Amended) A stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like element, a second undulating band-like element and a third undulating band-like element, the first, second and third undulating band-like elements disposed sequentially along the length of the stent, and

FS a plurality of substantially linear interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end, the interconnecting elements shorter in length than the undulating band-like elements which they connect,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the first undulating band-like element and troughs on the second undulating band-like element and second interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the second undulating band-like element and troughs on the third undulating band-like element, first interconnecting elements which are adjacent one another connected to each other via a first path along the first undulating band-like element, second interconnecting elements which are adjacent one another connected to each other via a second path along the second undulating band-like element, the